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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/587,074

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Martin Bergsmann

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EXAMINER

GRABOWSKI, KYLE ROBERT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3725

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/26/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/587,074

Applicant(s)

BERGSMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Kyle Grabowski

Art Unit

3725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-6, 26-30 and 32-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 7-25 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 December 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/21/06, 02/15/08
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 3-6, 26-30, and 32-35, are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 05/27/09.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 9, 10, and 13, are objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 9 lacks proper antecedent basis for the term "the carrier substrate". Claim 10 lacks proper antecedent basis for the term "the layer". Claim 13 lacks proper antecedent basis for the term "the layer system". Appropriate correction is required. For prosecution on its merits claim 9 will be construed to read "a carrier substrate", claim 10 will be construed to read "the electromagnetic wave-reflecting layer", and claim 13 will be construed to read "any of the metal cluster layers or the polymeric spacer layer".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-2, 7-25, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites an "electromagnetic wave-reflecting layer" which is diagramed as element 2 in the specification and the drawings; the electromagnetic wave-reflecting layer 2 however, as defined by the specification, is not present in the elected figures 1-4 (rather only in nonelected figures 5 and 6). The elected figures 1-4 have two metal cluster layers and no wave-reflecting layer. This is further confused when only one metal cluster layer is claimed in claim 1. For consideration on its merits, the electromagnetic wave-reflecting layer will be broadly construed to be a second metal cluster layer, thereby incorporating claim 10 (which is also objected to above, and construed to be drawn to the electromagnetic wave-reflecting layer). The claim is indefinite because it is unclear whether a second metal cluster layer is being claimed or a separate and different layer (which is what the claims seems to suggest).

5. Claim 7 is additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The "cover layer" lacks proper antecedent basis; Also is unclear what the layer covers or its location amongst the other layers of the security device. For prosecution on its merits it will be construed to be an additional applied layer.

6. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The "fine structure of the printing die" lacks proper antecedent basis. Further, the claim is drawn to a separate distinct structure from the security feature, which is claimed in the independent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

9. Claims 1-2, 8-22, 24, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heim (US 2005/0151368) in view of Mayer et al. (US 6,565,770).

10. In respect to claims 1 and 10, Heim discloses a forgery proof security feature comprising two metal cluster layers (see 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection above) "absorber

layers" A1 and A2, and a spacer layer "dielectric" D (Fig. 6). The absorber layers may be formed of metals (0017) which are deposited via a vapor deposition method (0021), therefore producing metal clusters (groups of two or more metal atoms). The cluster layers may be formed of different metals (0017). The combined layers form a color shift effect (Abstract).

11. Heim substantially discloses the claimed subject matter for the reasons stated above but does not explicitly disclose the spacer layer D comprising a polymer, however Mayer et al. teach a very similar security element with color shift effect wherein the dielectric spacer can comprise a variety of materials including polymers (Col. 8, 38-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the spacer layer taught in Heim as a polymeric material in view of Mayer et al. since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416. Further, Heim discloses that *any* vapor-depositable transparent compound may be used for the spacer layer (0018) and Mayer et al., providing a more extensive list of suitable materials, also includes every material Heim lists as an example.

12. In respect to claim 2, Heim further discloses that the metal cluster layers "absorbers" A1 and A2 may be imparted via gaps in their structures (thereby making the layers partial); the gaps may comprise characters or patterns (0035).

13. In respect to claim 8, Heim further discloses the spacer layer D having optically active structures (formed via diffraction grating 8) (Fig. 5).

14. In respect to claim 9, Heim further discloses a carrier substrate forming a transfer lacquer layer (0032).

15. In respect to claims 11 and 12, Heim further discloses, for example, Nickel or Iron compounds for the metal cluster layers. These substances are inherently magnetic (further security features).

16. In respect to claim 13-17, Heim discloses the claimed subject matter for the reasons stated above, i.e. providing logos, codes, symbols, (individualization) via gaps in the layers, these gaps further provide different colored effects (0035). Heim does not disclose how the individualization is produced (e.g. electromagnetic waves/laser), however, although product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

17. In respect to claim 18, although the scope of the claim cannot be ascertained for the reasons stated above, Heim further discloses filigree or guilloche structures (fine structures) present on the security element (0032).

18. In respect to claim 19, 21, and 31, Heim further discloses that the security element 2 may be applied to a sheet 1 (banknote) and span an open-area clearance 3 (Fig. 2).

19. In respect to claim 20, Heim further discloses the disposition of several alternating spacer (dielectric) and metal cluster (absorber) layers (0015). Further the holographic structure 8 may comprise a reflective metallic background (0073, Fig. 6).

20. In respect to claims 22 and 24, Heim further discloses that a lacquer or transparent layer may be provided on the security element during transfer (0032).

21. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heim (US 2005/0151368) in view of Mayer et al. (US 6,565,770) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Chen (US 4,792,667). Heim as modified by Mayer et al. substantially disclose the subject matter for the reasons stated above, but do not disclose an additional polymer layer having piezoelectric properties however Chen discloses a security document utilizing a protective layer having piezoelectric characteristics (Col. 1, 59-69), comprising, for example, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) a piezoelectric polymer (Col. 2, 55-60), and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the security element taught in Heim as modified by Mayer et al. with a piezoelectric polymer coating in view of Chen to provide additional security features, such as an indication that heat was applied in effort to alter the security element (Col. 3, 39- Col. 4, 2).

22. Claims 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heim (US 2005/0151368) in view of Mayer et al. (US 6,565,770) as applied to claims 22 and 24 above, and further in view of Adamczyk et al. (US 2004/0050269).

Heim as modified by Mayer et al. substantially disclose the claimed subject matter for the reasons stated above but do not disclose pigments in the adhesive/lacquer layer however Adamczyk et al. disclose embedding pigments such as luminescence substances in lacquer layers (0035) and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the lacquer/adhesive taught in Heim as modified by Mayer et al. with pigments in view of Adamczyk et al. to produce an added security element "effect" to the lacquer layer (0035). Further, the claim would have been obvious because a particular known technique was recognized as part of the ordinary capabilities of one skilled in the art. (i.e. imparting pigmentation to a lacquer layer).

Conclusion

23. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle Grabowski whose telephone number is (571)270-3518. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached on (571)272-4480. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kyle Grabowski/
Examiner, Art Unit 3725

/Dana Ross/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3725